

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph 0006 of the specification (substitute specification (clean version)) as follows:

[0006] A first preferred embodiment of a safety stopper for use with a conventional welding torch striker includes a sleeve made of a flexible, non-flammable, heat-resistant material. The sleeve is shaped to enclose a central portion of both arms, while providing space for relative movement within the sleeve of the first push-tab with respect to the second push-tab. The sleeve is shaped and sized for retention on the arms by enclosing a central portion of both arms, whereby spring force may be exerted outward on the sleeve by the arms. The sleeve is shaped to cover a substantial portion of the open area, while exposing the strike plate and the flint. When the striker, with the safety stopper attached, is carried hands-free attached to an operator's belt, the safety stopper reduces the chances of the operator being thrown off balance by the striker catching on an external object.

Please amend paragraphs 0046-0047 and 0053-0054 of the specification (substitute specification (clean version)) as follows:

[0046] FIG. 23 is a cross section view across A-A of FIG. 22.

[0047] FIG. 24 is a partial cross section view across B-B of FIG. 22.

[0053] FIG. 30 is a cross section view across A-A of FIG. 29.

[0054] FIG. 31 is a partial cross view across B-B of FIG. 29.

Please insert two new paragraphs directly after existing paragraph [0057] of the specification (substitute specification (clean version)) as follows:

FIG. 35 is a front view of another embodiment of a welding torch striker with an integral safety stopper having two pouches formed as part of a molded rubber web.

FIG. 36 is a front view of a first preferred embodiment of a welding torch striker with an integral safety stopper having two pouches made of leather attached to a molded rubber web.

Please amend paragraphs 0085-0086 of the specification (substitute specification (clean version)) as follows:

[0085] A first preferred embodiment of a welding torch striker with an integral safety stopper includes three pouches (~~not shown in FIGS. 33 and 34~~). The three pouches are preferably formed integrally with the web from the same rubber material as the web. They may be formed by conventional injection molding techniques using a mold having a retractable part to form the inside of a pouch and to impress brand name or other identification into the surface of the web. Unlike the leather pouches described above, the rubber pouches of the first preferred embodiment do not need flaps. They rely on the resilience of the rubber material to hold the spare flints cartridge and other accessories in place. FIG. 35 shows welding torch striker with an integral safety stopper 140 having outer front molded rubber pouch 141, and inner front molded rubber pouch 142, formed on the front face of its molded rubber web.

[0086] Alternatively, embodiments of welding torch strikers that have an integral safety stopper~~[[,]] shown in FIGS. 33 and 34[[,]]~~ may include stitched-on pouches made of leather ~~of the types described above~~. FIG. 36 shows welding torch striker with an integral safety stopper 150 having outer front leather pouch 151, and inner front leather pouch 152, formed on the front face of a molded rubber web, and a shared front flap 153 with a press stud fastener 154.